AN EPIDEMIC OF MUMPS.

The coincidence of an epidemic of pseudo-membranous angina and one of mumps was observed by PAILHAS (*La Médecine Infantile*, No. 6, June 15, 1895) in a boarding-school for girls at Albi. Both conditions were present in some of the patients, while others had only one or the other. Endocarditis occurred in one case, which the author attributes to the mumps, the left parotid being slightly swollen and tender: it seems more than likely that this was rheumatic in origin, as fever was present, with a coated tongue and painful swelling of all the joints of the left arm. Jaccoud, however, in 1884, reported two cases of mumps with endocarditis, and thought this complication rare only through its having been overlooked. One of the anginas was accompanied on the fifth day with a general erythema followed by desquamation—possibly a case of scarlet fever. What might be called an inverted type of mumps (alternance répétée) was shown by one case, the onset of which was marked by peri-articular swelling of the ankles, giving metastasis to the submaxillary glands, and leaving these in a few days to attack the right knee. A strange phenomenon in another case was the sudden appearance of numerous varioliform vesicles, associated with a dry cough and abdominal distention, these giving way in two weeks to a typical explosion of mumps. A similar case was observed outside of the school, and the author mentions that such eruptions have formerly been noted in mumps. A dry cough and hoarseness were also among the features noticed in many cases. In discussing the reason for the appearance of such varied manifestations, the author raises the question whether or not the germ of influenza, an epidemic of which was raging at the time, could have a modifying influence upon the causal agent of mumps, so as to give it an irregular action.

PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

JOHN SLADE ELY, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY IN THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE NEW YORK INFIRMARY; ASSISTANT IN PATHOLOGY IN THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS; PATHOLOGIST TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

THE INFLUENCE OF FEVER AND LEUCOCYTOSIS ON THE COURSE OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In the enthusiastic search for specific curative agents it is to be feared that the study of the influences which conduce to spontaneous recovery from the acute infectious diseases have been in a measure neglected. The importance of a correct knowledge of the manner in which spontaneous cure is effected cannot be overestimated, since any rational cure by artificial means to be most effective must follow in the same line. A correct understanding, then, of the natural history, so to speak, of the infectious diseases is of the greatest importance.

Of all the symptoms of the acute infectious diseases fever is the most constant, yet of the manner of its production and of its influence upon the course of these diseases we are almost wholly ignorant. At the present time the immediate practical importance of this question is very great, since so large a part of their treatment consists in combating the fever which is so constantly present. The fallacy of such treatment is apparent if in fever we have one of the salutary influences which bring about the natural recovery from these diseases.

In this connection the recent experiments of LOEWY and RICHTER (*Deutsche med. Woch.*, 1895, No. 15, p. 240) are of exceptional interest. By making use of the Sachs-Aronsohn method of puncture of the corpus striatum they were able to induce in rabbits a fever of more or less intensity and of the continued remittent type. When inoculated with virulent cultures ot the germs of diphtheria, chicken-cholera, swine-plague, and pneumonia, these animals were much less affected than others similarly inoculated in which fever had not been induced. In the experiments in which one hundred times the fatal dose of chicken-cholera, diphtheria, and pneumonia were used, there was a distinctly slower progress of the disease in the febrile animals, and in the cases where only two or three times the fatal dose was administered the febrile animals recovered. In cases in which the swine-plague was inoculated into the ear-vein of rabbits the local process developed more rapidly in the febrile animals than in the control-animals, but notwithstanding this fact many of them recovered, while the control-animals all died. These results are the more significant since it is but fair to suppose that by the operation necessary to the puncture of the corpus striatum the predisposition of the animals so treated must have been increased.

In their investigation of the effect of an increased number of leucocytes upon the course of various infections in animals, Loewy and Richter induced artificial leucocytosis by means of pilocarpin, spermin, and various albumoses. Animals so treated were resistant to three and four times the fatal dose of the pneumococcus, there being only slight rise of temperature and insignificant symptoms in the cases in which the leucocytosis existed at the time of the inoculation. When the pneumococcus infection was allowed to progress for twenty-four hours before the induction of leucocytosis there was a greater mortality, though even then benefit seemed to result from its induction.

In conclusion the authors express their belief that fever and leucocytosis should be regarded as of assistance to the body in combating the effects of infection, and they suggest that therapeutic benefit may be derived rather from the use of means tending to increase these conditions than from those antagonizing them.

THE ŒDEMA OF RENAL DISEASE.

Three distinct forms of œdema are believed by SENATOR (*Berl. klin. Woch.*, 1895, No. 8, p. 165) to occur in nephritis. The first of these has a purely mechanical cause, depending upon interference with the circulation